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SUBJECT: MIDEAST: HAMAS-FATAH CLASHES; SCO PAULO

"In The Absence Of Peace, A War Between Palestinians"

Business-oriented Valor Economico (6/19): "The lack of negotiated solutions for the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians and for the stabilization of Iraq has gradually imploded all governments of the region and made the political situation in the Middle East even more volatile and troublesome than before.... If peace opportunities have been lost with an irritating regularity, these crises favor opportunistic attempts to obtain advantages that lead to nowhere.... The US believes that the separation of regional Palestinian leaders will make the task of supporting one of the parties easier, and has promised to resume aid to President Mahmoud Abbas, thereby isolating the radicals.... It's the Bush administration's notorious ability to exchange reality for appearances, something that is even more disastrous in places such as the Middle East. It is absolutely unrealistic to believe in any peaceful way out, even temporary, while the Palestinians are divided."

McMullen